

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/821,898

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI, YUJI

Examiner

Art Unit

Hoan H. Tran

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 04/04, 08/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-20 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-8, 15 and 16

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising a developing device having a developer scatter preventing member including a first end portion fixed to the edge of the developer casing, a second end portion flexed on an upstream side of the developing region in a moving direction of the surface of the latent image carrier; wherein a gap between the edge portion of the developer casing and the surface of the latent image carrier is blocked by bringing the second end portion of the developer scatter preventing member into contact with the surface of the latent image carrier, and wherein a contact pressure of the second end portion of the developer scatter preventing member relative to the surface of the latent image carrier is set such that a brush portion, which falls from a conductive brush member for removing foreign substances from the surface of a charging member and is carried on the surface of the latent image carrier, passes through a contact part between the second end portion of the developer scatter preventing member and the surface of the latent image carrier.

Claims 9-14 and 17

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising a developing device having a developer scatter preventing member disposed at the opening of the developer casing on an upstream side of a region where a magnetic brush rises on the surface of the developer carrier in a direction of conveying the developer on the surface of

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the developer carrier such that a leading edge of the developer scatter preventing member contacts the surface of the latent image carrier, and a toner accumulation preventing member disposed between the surface of the developer carrier and the developer scatter preventing member; wherein the magnetic field generating device includes adjoining auxiliary magnetic poles disposed upstream and downstream of the main magnetic pole in the direction of conveying the developer, respectively, to adjust a half-width of the magnetic pole and wherein the main magnetic pole has an angular width of about 60 degrees or less between opposite pole transition points respectively positioned upstream and downstream of a flux density of the main magnetic pole in the normal direction in the direction of conveying the developer.

Claims 18-20

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising a conductive brush to remove foreign substances from the surface of the charging ember, and a developing device having a first and second means for preventing the developer from scattering, the first means preventing the developer from scattering in a direction conveying the developer, at a position on an upstream side of the developing region where the developer carrier faces the latent image carrier, and the second means preventing accumulation of the developer on a surface of the first means facing the developer carrier.

Prior Art

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Itabashi [6,792,227] discloses a developer container including a seal.

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- Yamaguchi [6,151,467] discloses a developing device having a toner seal.
- Ishii et al. [6,144,820] disclose a sealing member having an insulating layer and a conductive portion.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoan H. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2141. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Arthur Grimley can be reached at (571) 272-2136. The central office fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

HHT
September 18, 2005



**HOAN TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**